

Rockville Villages

April 28, 2016

Dear Mayor Newton and Council Members:

The Rockville Villages Advisory Committee is very pleased that the Mayor has recommended both extending the hours of the Rockville Senior Center Outreach staff and hiring a full-time Village Facilitator.

We do have some concerns regarding the position description and placement, however. Referring to the job overview we submitted to the Mayor and Council in March (also attached), please note that our committee feels very strongly that this position is different from the county position currently held by Pazit Aviv. The committee, after careful consideration and information gathering since September 2014, believes that this position's responsibilities would be twofold:

1. Provide support and help to neighborhood villages formed and forming. This support goes beyond education, possibly extending to establishing a hub-and-spoke village model where the Village Facilitator provides core services to be shared by all Rockville Villages.
2. Help to educate Rockville citizens about the benefits of aging in place, making sure that lower-income and non-English speakers receive appropriate attention. The Committee has been particularly concerned that to date, villages have formed primarily in affluent and white communities. But as you know Rockville is diverse both ethnically and economically. We believe that there must be an intentional focus on educating all neighborhoods in the possibilities and benefits of aging in place.

Also please note that we also recommend the title Facilitator rather than Coordinator. While this may seem like splitting title hairs, this position is charged with helping Rockville become a home to aging-in-place neighborhoods across all levels of diversity—and that will require more active, hands-on engagement and community organization work and more significant input from current Rockville Senior Center Outreach staff, possibly under the supervision of this position.

Finally, we were disappointed that the consultants providing the city with the senior needs assessment data were not able to attend any of our meetings or talk to the committee. We believe that we have a unique focus on seniors in Rockville that may have further contributed to their work.

For more information: RockvilleVillages@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/rockvillevillages>
Rockville page on Montgomery County website: <http://tinyurl.com/rockvillevillages>

Rockville Villages

We will plan to continue to offer our opinions at Rockville City Council meetings and as well as to support village development through continued activities, meetings and discussion groups organized by the Villages Advisory Committee. We thank you for giving our opinions your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Seltz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Seltz, Chair
Rockville Villages Advisory Committee

Attachment: Overview Job Description for Rockville Villages Facilitator

For more information: RockvileVillages@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/rockvillevillages>
Rockville page on Montgomery County website: <http://tinyurl.com/rockvillevillages>